

APHODIUS RUFUS MOLL, 1782 AND AEGIALIA RUFA
FABRICIUS, 1792 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED
CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS BY
SUPPRESSION OF APHODIUS SCYBALARIUS FABRICIUS,
1792.Z.N.(S.)2318

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In 1781 J. Ch. Fabricius (*Spec. Ins.* vol. 1, p. 16) described a species called *Scarabaeus scybalarius*, included now in the genus *Aphodius* Illiger, 1798, (subfamily APHODIINAE, tribe APHODIINI).

2. C. E. v. Moll, 1782 (in Fuessly, *Neues Mag.* vol. 1, p. 372) described the same taxon as *Scarabaeus rufus*, included now in the genus *Aphodius* Illiger, 1798.

3. Thus, the priority belongs to Fabricius's specific name *scybalarius* (1781) before *rufus* Moll (1782).

4. In 1783 Herbst (*Arch. Inst.-Gesch.* vol. 4, p. 7) described another new species called *Scarabaeus foetidus*, included now in the genus *Aphodius* Illiger, 1798. The type specimen is deposited in the Zoological Museum, Kiel.

5. A number of authors in nearly all fundamental works on the systematics of the SCARABAEIDAE in the 19th and 20th centuries have erroneously used the name *Aphodius scybalarius* for Herbst's species *foetidus*, and the name *Aphodius rufus* Moll for Fabricius's *scybalarius*.

6. The proof of synonymy between *Scarabaeus scybalarius* and *S. rufus*, as well as of the misinterpretation of *S. foetidus*, was presented by Landin (1956) on the strength of authentic material deposited in the Zoological Museum, Kiel and the British Museum (Natural History) Banks Collection, London. Landin applied the Law of Priority for *Aphodius foetidus* (Herbst), reinstating this name and placing *A. scybalarius* auct. (nec Fabricius, 1781) in its synonymy. However, he proposed inconsistently to conserve the commonly used name *A. rufus* (Moll) for the species *A. scybalarius* (Fabricius), but no application to the Commission was made by him.

7. In 1792 J.Ch. Fabricius (*Ent. Syst.* vol. 1, p. 39) described another new taxon under the name *Scarabaeus rufus*, included now in the genus *Aegialia* Latreille, 1807 (subfamily APHODIINAE, tribe AEGIALIINI). *Scarabaeus rufus* Fabricius, 1792 is the type species of the subgenus *Rhysothorax* Bedel, 1911 (*Fn. Col. Seine, Scarab.*, p. 44) by original designation. *Aegialia (Rhysothorax) rufa* (Fabricius) occurs in Europe and North America. In 1977 Z. Stebnicka listed 24 references to the use of the name *rufa* or *rufus* during the years 1801–1976, established a single synonym (*Aegialia spissipes* Leconte, 1878, *Proc. Amer. phil. Soc.* vol. 17, p. 611) and recorded two uses of this name (in 1887 and 1931).

8. It should be noted that the earlier name of *Scarabaeus rufus* de Geer, 1778 (*Mém. Hist. Ins.* vol. 8, p. 640) is of uncertain status and no action on it is proposed.

9. In 1977 H. Silfverberg observed the homonymy of the species mentioned above. He introduced *Aegialia rufina* nom. nov. as a replacement name for *Aegialia rufa* (Fabricius) (suitable synonym: *Aegialia spissipes* Leconte) and close to *Aphodius rufus* (Moll) he added the following remarks: 'Landin (1956) wanted to preserve the well-known name *Aphodius rufus*, although *Aphodius scybalarius* (Fabricius, 1781) is a senior synonym (described as *Scarabaeus scybalarius* in *Spec. Ins.* vol. I, p. 16). Because of the homonymy involved, this cannot be, and *Aphodius scybalarius* is the valid name'.

10. The action of Silfverberg is very unfortunate (although compatible with the Code) and disrupts stability of nomenclature. Therefore, to avoid the confusion resulting from upsetting the long-accepted names and in the interest of stability and uniformity of nomenclature the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is hereby requested to:

(1) use its plenary powers:

- (a) to suppress the specific name *scybalarius* Fabricius, 1781 as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus scybalarius* for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (b) to exempt the junior primary homonym *Scarabaeus rufus* Fabricius, 1792, from the application of the Law of Homonymy;

(2) place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *rufus* Moll, 1782, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus rufus*;
- (b) *rufus* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus rufus*;
- (c) *foetidus* Herbst, 1782, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus foetidus*;

(3) place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology *scybalarius* Fabricius, 1781, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus scybalarius* and as suppressed in 1(a) above.

REFERENCES

- LANDIN, B. O. 1956. The Fabrician Species of Aphodiini and Aegialiini (Col., Lamellicornia). *Opusc. Entomol.* vol. 21, pp. 203-228.
- SILFVERBERG, H. 1977. Nomenclatoric notes on Coleoptera Polyphaga. *Notulae Entomol.* vol. 57, pp. 91-94.
- STEBNICKA, Z. 1977. A Revision of the World Species of the Tribe Aegialiini (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Aphodiinae). *Acta. zool. cracov.* vol. 22, pp. 397-505.